

Frequently Asked Questions

GOLD LEAF PRODUCTIONS GENERAL FAQ

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Q. Where is Gold Leaf Productions?

A. My studio is in Warren County, Ohio, within an easy drive of both Cincinnati and Dayton. It sits in the country on five beautiful, rolling, wooded acres, providing a wonderful setting for outdoor as well as indoor photography.

Q. Do you shoot on location or only at your studio?

A. Your session can be at my studio, at a location of your choice, indoors or outdoors. I am flexible if you are. Parks, gardens, lakes, and rivers are some very popular locations.

Q. Which is better, an indoor or outdoor session?

A. Each has advantages. It really depends on your tastes. Certain lighting effects and props definitely work better in the studio. The outdoors offers natural light and more freedom to move. I have found that children, in particular, are at their best in a natural, outdoor setting where they can explore and be themselves.

Q. Do you shoot film or digital photographs?

A. I shoot strictly digital. The quality is fabulous and digital allows me the freedom to take unlimited photos of you or your event without worrying about the costs of film and development. Digital is a win-win for everyone.

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Q. How much will my photos cost?

A. The cost varies depending on the type of session and photo package you want. Please browse the galleries and visit my Services pages—Photography, Senior Pictures, Weddings, and Graphic Design—to get a better idea of pricing and the types of available services and picture packages. You can also contact me by e-mail or phone for a free quote. I think you will find my pricing very competitive when compared to other professional photographers in the area.

Q. Why are you less expensive than other photographers?

A. Some photographers would like you to believe that higher prices equal better pictures. In reality, all photographers base their prices on their costs plus a profit margin. My work is by no means inferior, but my profit margin and costs are lower. That means I can pass the savings onto my customers by charging less.

Q. What types of payment do you accept?

A. I accept cash, checks and PayPal.

Q. Do you offer gift certificates?

A. Yes, and they are not your typical flimsy piece of paper or gift card. My gift certificates are works of art in themselves, and are customized to each recipient. They are available in any amount, or for specific products and/or services. Gift certificates are valid for one year from the date of purchase.

Q. How far in advance should I schedule my appointment?

A. You can never schedule too early! For portrait sessions, call at least two weeks in advance; call earlier if you need to reserve a particular time slot. For weddings, book at least 10 months in advance. If your wedding is during a popular time of year (summer or holidays), consider booking 12 to 18 months in advance. All of my bookings are made on a first-come basis, and I never schedule more than one wedding per day.

Q. Do you have props, or should I bring my own?

A. Yes to both! I encourage you to bring anything that helps show your personality: a vehicle, a musical instrument, sports equipment, a child's favorite toy. I also have a number of backgrounds and props we can use. I even have some props that no other studio can offer, such as a sunflower-yellow 1957 Chevy pickup truck and a red Harley Davidson motorcycle (subject to availability).

Q. Do you charge extra for including pets or friends or for changing clothes?

A. Bring it on! Change clothes as many times as the session length allows. Bring your pet. Bring your friends. Bring your family. I would love to meet them all. I do not charge per outfit, and I do not charge per person or pet. Sessions with pets and friends are among the more fun to do! Just let me know when you make your appointment who else I should plan to include.

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Q. Do you take engagement photos?

A. Yes. Engagement photos are available either at the studio (indoors or out) or on location. And if you book your wedding with me, there is no charge for your engagement sitting.

Q. Will you shoot any black & white photos?

A. Yes, and I never charge extra for black & white. Sepia prints also are available at no extra charge.

Q. How can you make my photos look unique?

A. Together, we'll make sure your images are as unique as you are. I am a graphic designer as well as a photographer. We have a wide variety of creative options to make your photos stand out from the crowd, including special effects and finishing techniques. Browse the galleries and visit my Graphic Design pages for some ideas.

Q. How long before my photos are ready?

A. Typically, you can review proofs about two weeks after the photo session and receive final prints about four weeks after placing the order. Allow a few weeks more for albums.

Q. What is the largest size print I can order?

A. Our price list goes up to 20 inches x 30 inches, but larger sizes (up to 60 inches tall or wide) are available upon request. Larger portraits make amazing works of art for your home.

Q. Do you offer albums?

A. Yes, and not just one or two styles or brands. Let me know what you have in mind. There is a source for almost anything you can imagine. I can design it and have it produced for you.

Q. Can I scan my photos if I just want a few extra copies to print for friends or use on the internet?

A. If you have purchased full usage rights from me, then the answer is: Yes. Otherwise, the answer is: No. I retain the copyright to all photographs, images and artwork that I create. You may not realize it, but it is illegal and against copyright laws to scan, copy and distribute photos without the photographer's permission. Distribution includes displaying an image on a web site. I keep your digital photos on file indefinitely. So, if you need reprints or a digital copy of an image, you can order at any time at the current pricing. You can purchase a "limited usage release" for a single digital copy of a single image, or you can purchase full usage rights to all of your photos. Call me for current pricing or a quote.

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